



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

News Release

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ICE arrests fugitive criminal alien convicted of shooting Border Patrol agent

PHOENIX, Ariz. – A Mexican national convicted of shooting and critically wounding a Border Patrol agent nearly two decades ago in southern Arizona is back in custody today facing federal prosecution again following his arrest by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) yesterday.

Humberto Fuentes, 51, was arrested by ICE detention and removal officers at his residence in East Phoenix after ICE received a tip from another federal agency that he had returned to the United States illegally. Fuentes is scheduled to make his initial appearance in federal court here at 3:00 p.m. today to face a felony charge of re-entry after deportation.

Fuentes was convicted and previously deported for shooting and critically wounding Border Patrol Agent Frank J. Hawkins in 1978, near the port of entry at San Luis. After assaulting Hawkins, Fuentes fled to Mexico, but was captured the same day by Mexican authorities. Fuentes was charged with illegal importation of a firearm, but Mexican officials failed to prosecute him and he was soon released.

Fuentes re-entered the United States illegally, but was eventually located and apprehended by agents with the former Immigration and Naturalization Service in Tempe in August 1987. Fuentes was convicted of assaulting Hawkins and, after serving a sentence in federal prison, was deported from the United States in July 1991.

“One of ICE’s top enforcement priorities is locating and arresting alien fugitives like Fuentes who pose a clear threat to the safety of our communities,” said Phillip C. Crawford, field office director for ICE detention and removal operations in Arizona. “ICE is working with its local, state, and federal law enforcement partners to identify these individuals and take them off the streets”

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.